



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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SCIRPUS CESPITOSUS **TUFTED CLUB-RUSH**

Tufted Club-rush is a grass-like perennial with tufted stems that are 10-40 cm tall and arising from short rhizomes. The leaves are clustered near the base and are reduced to scales or short blades. Several flowers are arranged in a single, short, inflorescence on top that is 4-6 mm long and subtended by a long-tipped scale. Each flower consists of a single scale subtending 3 stamens and an ovary with 6 white bristles that are as long as the scales and arising from the base. The 3 sided achene is ca. 1.5 mm long and has a short, abrupt beak. Mature fruit in July-August.

SCIRPUS CESPITOSUS could easily be mistaken for a species of *ELEOCHARIS*; however, it has spikelets subtended by a short-awned scale, while the latter do not. It resembles *S. HUDSONIANUS* except for its smooth, round stems, and resembles *S. PUMILUS* except that it forms large, distinctive tussocks and has perianth bristles. A hand lens is needed for positive identification.